

To: Director of Central Intelligence
Fm: Charles Waterman, NIO/NESA

Subject: Talking Points on Lebanon, 12 June

New Developments

-The intention of the Israelis to decimate, as far as possible, Palestinian armed elements in the Beirut area and south, continues to clarify. A large brigade sized unit is apparently advancing on the major Beirut camps themselves-- which are located just outside the airport area near the Israelis. 300 Iranians may have joined Palestinians there.

-We cannot confirm an Israeli comment to the press that Soviet pilots are accompanying Syrian pilots now. No other change in Soviet alert status noted.

-Despite two possible breakdowns, the Israeli-Syrian ceasefire is generally holding.

Basic Trends

-As noted yesterday, the country is coalescing into three broad areas: Maronite dominated Southwest backed by Israel; Syrian dominated central and northern Biqa' valley; and possibly a third Muslim amalgam in the northern portion proper. I see nothing which is stopping this process, whatever legal niceties may be preserved.

-For the new southwest portion to be effectively dominated by the strengthened central government, armed Palestinians must not remain in Beirut or the south. This is the reason for current Israeli attempts to eradicate them, especially in Beirut. At some point, it may be desirable for the Lebanese central government-- possibly inspired by us--to attempt to arrange some form of safe passage for remaining Palestinian armed elements to Syrian controlled territory. Their presence there is palatable to the Israelis, as the Syrians historically have controlled them well. They lose their "wild card" character.

Charles E. Waterman

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Attachment: C800 Task Force Situation Report

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